

# Water Trivia



1. How are large volumes of water measured?  
*A. By acre-feet. Imagine an acre of land with one foot of water standing on it.*
2. How much water do we get from the Colorado River?  
*A. 4.4 million acre-feet per year.*
3. How long can a person live without water?  
*A. From several hours to one week depending upon air temperature and humidity.*
4. How much water must a person consume per day to maintain health?  
*A. 2-1/2 quarts from all sources.*
5. How much water is used to flush a toilet?  
*A. 2 - 7 gallons depending upon the toilet design and/or use of displacement devices.*
6. How much water is used in the average 5-minute shower?  
*A. 25 - 50 gallons.*
7. How much water is used on the average for an automatic dishwasher?  
*A. 9 - 12 gallons.*
8. How much more groundwater do we use than goes back into the ground?  
*A. 1.8 million acre-feet per year.*
9. How much of the earth's water is suitable for drinking?  
*A. Only 1%.*
10. How much water do state experts estimate we could be short by the year 2010?  
*A. 4 million acre-feet per year.*

## Helpful Hints to Conserve Water

1. Take shorter showers or take baths instead.
2. Turn off the water while brushing your teeth and/or shaving.
3. Use your automatic dishwasher and washing machine for *full loads only*.
4. Check pipes and faucets for leaks — indoors and outdoors.
5. Water your lawn only when necessary and use deep soak method.
6. Water your lawn during the cool early morning hours.
7. Don't water the gutter. Make sure sprinklers are positioned toward the lawn or plants.
8. Put a layer of mulch around trees and plants to slow evaporation.
9. Don't hose down your driveway or sidewalks — sweep instead.
10. Plant drought-resistant trees and plants.



County of San Bernardino • Department of Public Health  
DIVISION OF ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

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